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Forecast Calendar

March 16, 2012

United States

Economic Indicators—Schedule and Forecasts

Sinai/Ellis/Hooper

March 19 – 30, 2012

f= DE forecast c=consensus a=advance s=second t=third r=revised

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NAHB Housing Market Index (10:00)

Nov	19	Feb	29
Dec	21	**Mar (f)**	**31**
Jan	25	**Mar (c)**	**30**

3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$64.0 Billion

Dudley Speech (8:15)
(Melville, NY: Regional and National Economics)

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ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (3/17)

Housing Starts (8:30)
(Units, Thousands, SAAR)

	Starts	Permits
Jan	699	682
Feb (f)	**712**	**695**
Feb (c)	**700**	**686**

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(3/17)

Senate Banking Committee (10:00)
(Board of Governors Nominations of Jeremy Stein and Jerome Powell)

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$40.0 Billion (f)

Bernanke Lecture (12:45) (1/4)
(George Washington University: "The Federal Reserve and its Role in Today's Economy")

Kocherlakota Speech (17:30)
(Hyman Mnsky Lecture Series, Washington University: "On the Limits to Monetary Policy")

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Existing Home Sales (10:00)
(Units, Millions, SAAR)

Oct	4.320	Jan	4.570
Nov	4.400	**Feb (f)**	**4.618**
Dec	4.380	**Feb (c)**	**4.600**

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Initial Claims (8:30)

3/3	365	**3/17 (f)**	**350**
3/10	351	**3/17 (c)**	**351**

Leading Indicators (10:00)

Oct	0.5%	Jan	0.4%
Nov	0.3%	**Feb (f)**	**0.7%**
Dec	0.5%	**Feb (c)**	**0.6%**

Tarullo Testimony (10:00)
(Senate Banking Committee: "International Harmonization of Wall St Reform: Orderly Liquidification, Derivatives, and the Volker Rule")

Bernanke Lecture (12:45) (2/4)
(George Washington University: "The Federal Reserve and its Role in Today's Economy")

10 -Year TIPS (13:00)
$13.0 Billion

Evans Speech (16:00)
(Brookings Institution: "Macroeconomic Effects of FOMC Forward Guidance")

Bullard Speech (20:00)
(Asian Investment Conference, Hong Kong)

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New Home Sales (10:00)
(Units, Thousands, SAAR)

Oct	311	Jan	321
Nov	318	**Feb (f)**	**332**
Dec	324	**Feb (c)**	**325**

Bernanke Speech (13:45)
(Opening remarks at Federal Reserve Board Conference (Mar. 23-24): "Before During and After the Crisis")

Lockhart Speech (14:30)
(Georgetown University: Remarks on career and the Federal Reserve)

Saturday:
Yellen Speech (16:30)
(Closing Panel at Federal Reserve Board Conference on "Challenges for the Future")

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Plosser Speech (7:00)
(Global Interdependence Center Conference, Paris)

Bernanke Speech (8:00)
(National Association for Business Economics 2012 Policy Conference, Arlington: "A View from the Federal Reserve")

Pending Home Sales (10:00)

Sep	-3.0%	Dec	-1.9%
Oct	6.6%	Jan	2.0%
Nov	4.6%	**Feb (f)**	**1.9%**

3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$64.0 Billion (f)

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Rosengren Speech (TBD)
(NIESR, London)

ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (3/24)

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(3/24)

S&P/Case-Shiller Index (9:00)
(20 City Index) (Y/Y)

Aug	-4.0%	Nov	-3.9%
Sep	-3.7%	Dec	-4.0%
Oct	-3.6%	**Jan (f)**	**-3.9%**

Conference Board Consumer Confidence Survey (10:00)

Oct	40.9	Jan	61.5
Nov	55.2	Feb	70.8
Dec	64.8	**Mar (f)**	**67.1**

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$40.0 Billion (f)

Bernanke Lecture (12:45) (3/4)
(George Washington University, "The Federal Reserve and its Role in Today's Economy")

2 -Year Note (13:00)
$35.0 Billion (f)

Bullard Speech (20:00)
(Tsinghua University, China: Monetary Policy)

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Durable Goods (8:30)

	Orders	Ex-Def.	Ships.
Dec	3.3%	3.9%	2.0%
Jan	-3.7%	-4.3%	0.4%
Feb (f)	**2.5%**	**2.5%**	**0.8%**

5 -Year Note (13:00)
$35.0 Billion (f)

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Initial Claims (8:30)

3/3	365	**3/17 (f)**	**350**
3/10	351	**3/24 (f)**	**350**

Gross Domestic Product (8:30)
(Third)

	Real	Final Sales	Chain Prices
11:Q3	1.8%	3.2%	2.6%
11:Q4 (s)	3.0%	1.1%	0.9%
11:Q4 (f)	**3.0%**	**1.1%**	**0.9%**

Lockhart Speech (12:15)
(Commerce Club, Atlanta: "The European Crisis and How It Affects You")

Bernanke Lecture (12:45) (4/4)
(George Washington University, The Federal Reserve and its Role in Today's Economy")

Plosser Speech (13:00)
(Rotary Club, Wilmington, DE: Economic Outlook)

7 -Year Note (13:00)
$29.0 Billion (f)

Lacker Speech (18:45)
(University of North Carolina School of Law Center for Banking and Finance)

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Personal Income & Consumption (8:30)

	Income	Cons.	Core Prices
Dec	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%
Jan	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Feb (f)	**0.3%**	**0.7%**	**0.1%**

Chicago Purchasing Managers' Survey (9:45)

	Total	Prices Paid
Jan	60.2	62.4
Feb	64.0	65.6
Mar (f)	**66.3**	**68.5**

U of M Cons Sentiment Index (9:55) (Final)

Nov	64.1	Feb	75.3
Dec	69.9	Mar (p)	74.3
Jan	75.0	**Mar**	**74.0**

U of M Inflation Expectations (9:55) (Final)

	1-Year	5-Year
Feb	3.3%	2.9%
Mar (p)	4.0%	3.0%
Mar	**4.0%**	**3.0%**

Recent History-Latest Results

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Treasury Statement (14:00)
($ Billions)

	2012	2011
Dec	-86.0	-78.1
Jan	-27.4	-49.8
Feb	-231.7	-222.5

3-and 6-Month Bills (11:30)
$64.0 Billion

3-Year Note (13:00)
$32.0 Billion

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ICSC/Goldman Sachs Chain Sales (7:45) (3/10)

Advance Retail Sales (8:30)

	Total	Ex-Auto
Dec	0.0%	-0.5%
Jan	0.4%	0.7%
Feb	1.1%	0.9%

Redbook Chain Sales (8:55)
(3/10)

Business Inventories, Sales (10:00)

	Inven.	Sales	I/S
Nov	0.3%	0.4%	1.269
Dec	0.6%	0.9%	1.265
Jan	0.7%	0.4%	1.268

FOMC Meeting & Statement (14:15)

4-Week Bill (11:30)
$40.0 Billion

10-Year Note (13:00)
$21.0 Billion

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Import Prices (Non-Fuel, Y/Y) (8:30)

Sep	5.4%	Dec	3.5%
Oct	4.8%	Jan	2.9%
Nov	3.7%	Feb	%

Current Account Balance (8:30)
($ Billions)

11:Q1	-118.3	11:Q3	-107.6
11:Q2	-123.4	11:Q4	-124.1

30-Year Bond (13:00)
$13.0 Billion

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Initial Claims (8:30)

2/18	353	3/3	365
2/25	354	3/10	351

Producer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Dec	-0.1%	0.3%
Jan	0.1%	0.4%
Feb	0.4%	0.2%

Empire State Manufacturing Survey (8:30)

	Total	Prices
Jan	13.5	26.4
Feb	19.5	25.9
Mar	20.2	50.6

Monthly TIC flows (9:00) (Jan)

Philadelphia Fed Survey (10:00)

	Total	Prices
Jan	7.3	31.8
Feb	10.2	38.7
Mar	12.5	18.7

Monthly Money (16:30)

(SA, $ Billions)	M1	M2
Dec	2173.9	9640.1
Jan	2228.9	9765.4
Feb	2222.9	9787.4

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Consumer Price Index (8:30)

	Total	Ex-F&E
Dec	0.0%	0.1%
Jan	0.2%	0.2%
Feb	0.4%	0.1%

Industrial Production & Capacity Utilization (9:15)

	Prod.	Util.
Dec	0.9%	78.5%
Jan	0.4%	78.8%
Feb	0.0%	78.7%

U of M Cons Sentiment Index (9:55) (Prelim.)

Oct	60.9	Jan	75.0
Nov	64.1	Feb	75.3
Dec	69.9	Mar	74.3

U of M Inflation Expectations (9:55) (Prelim.)

	1-Year	5-Year
Jan	3.3%	2.7%
Feb	3.3%	2.9%
Mar	4.0%	3.0%

Indicator Highlights

Housing Starts (Tues., Mar. 20, 8:30 a.m.) will provide a forward look at residential construction, a component of real GDP, though less than 3% now; five years ago it was 6%. Existing Home Sales (Wed., Mar. 21, 10:00 a.m.) will offer a demand update for the broad housing market.

The S&P/Case-Shiller Index (Tue., Mar. 27, 9:00 a.m.) is a key gauge of house prices for both year-on-year changes and on a running basis. Home prices in this index have double dipped but when will the corner be turned? Revised Gross Domestic Product (Thurs., Mar. 29, 8:30 a.m.) will give more clarity on the overall economy in Q4 and the potential for continuing the strength, or lack thereof, for the economic recovery. Personal Income & Consumption (Fri., Mar. 30, 8:30 a.m.) will provide a second-month reading of Q1 consumer spending, currently the largest source (over 70%) of real GDP. How goes the consumer, so goes the economy. A new growth trend for consumption has emerged: much weaker than historically, but significantly better, perhaps about +2½% or so, than the last few years. Modest income growth is expected. The Reuters/University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index (Fri., Mar. 30, 9:55 a.m.) will give a final look at consumer attitudes in March. Consumer sentiment has been rising sharply on better household financial conditions and an improved jobs climate, but is now threatened by jumping gasoline prices.

Indicator	Forecast	Consensus	Analysis
NAHB Housing Market Index	31	30	Moderate gain, following two months of sharp upward movement.
Housing Starts (Units, SAAR)	712,000	700,000	Production up very modestly.
Housing Permits (Units, SAAR)	695,000	686,000	
Existing Home Sales (Units, SAAR)	4.618 Million	4.600 Million	Demand side continues to firm—issue is whether supply is absorbed.
Leading Indicators	+0.7%	+0.6%	Broad-based gain on labor market and financial market improvement.
New Home Sales (Units, SAAR)	332,000	325,000	Still extremely feeble.
Pending Home Sales	+1.9%		Edges upward.
S&P/Case-Shiller Index	-3.9%		Very uncertain stability.
Conference Board Consumer Confidence Survey	67.1		Sentiment eroded by higher gasoline prices.
Durable Goods			
Orders	+2.5%		Commercial aircraft orders up again.
Ex-Defense	+2.5%		
Shipments	+0.8%		
Gross Domestic Product (Third)			
Real	+3.0%		Minimal revisions, if any, to components.
Final Sales	+1.1%		
Chain Prices	+0.9%		
Personal Income & Consumption			
Income	+0.3%		Relatively mild income gain, but strong auto purchases.
Consumption	+0.7%		
Core Prices	+0.1%		
Chicago Purchasing Managers' Survey			
Total	66.3		Upturn in activity likely. Prices continue upward movement.
Prices Paid	68.5		
U. of M. Consumer Sentiment Index (Final)	74.0		Gasoline price rise erodes sentiment further.
U. of M. Inflation Expectations (Final)			
1-Yr Ahead (Median)	4.0%		Short-term spike due to gasoline.
5-Yr Ahead (Median)	3.0%		

Assessment

Economy firming in a more broad-based way, lifting up in Q4 and Q1 relative to a year ago on better consumption, a little pick-up in residential construction, and capital spending. "Off-shore" risks to U.S. still from European recession and ongoing weaker growth in Asia. But, the look ahead is much better. Europe recession for Q4, Q1, and Q2 in-place; maybe longer, maybe deeper. Fed still likely to continue high alert on unemployment being too high, but the possibility of another balance sheet easing move lessened on the improving labor market. Reacceleration of U.S. economy noticeable, but the central bank will be cautious given previous premature expectations of a better economy that did not unfold.

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